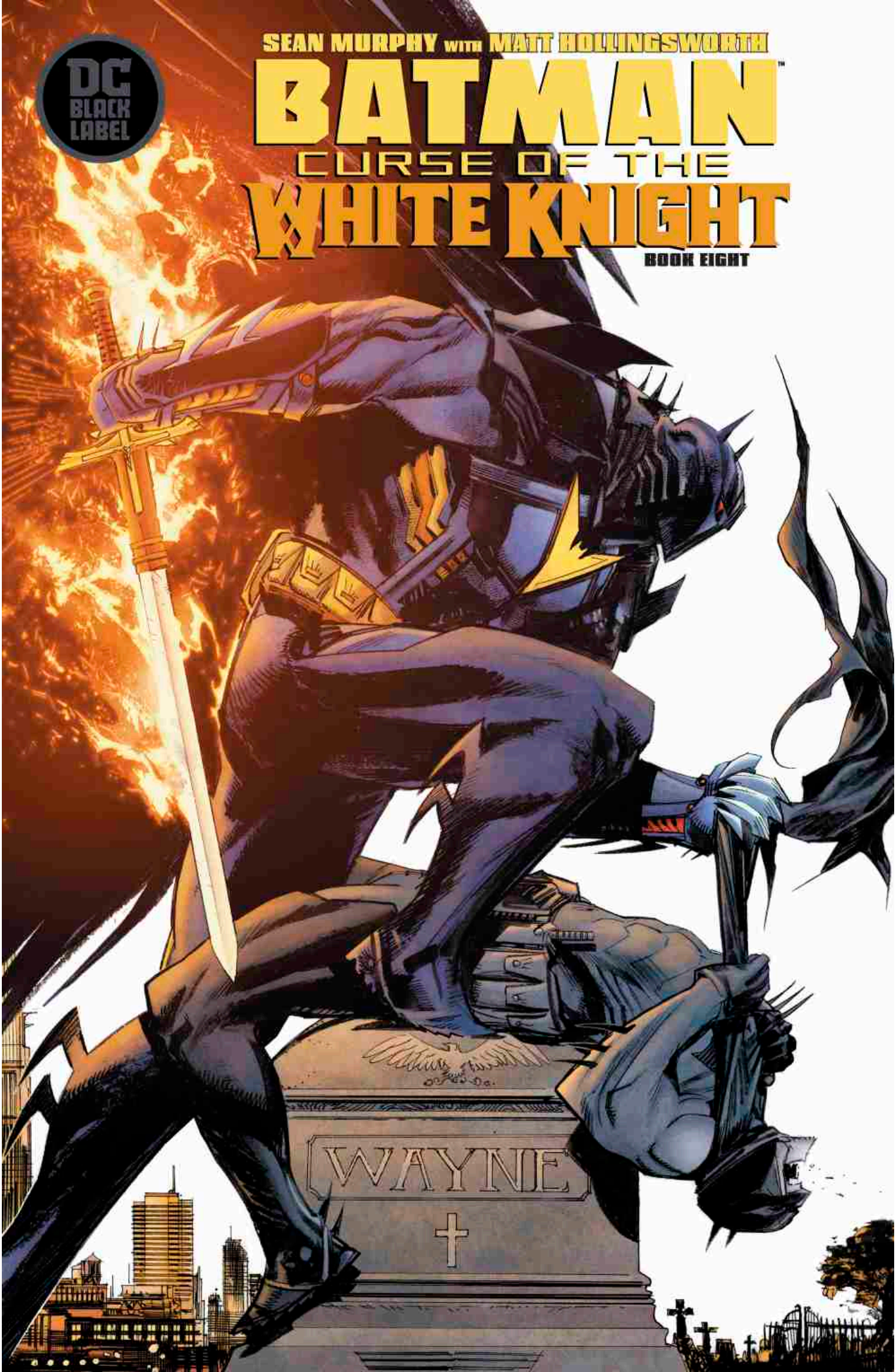
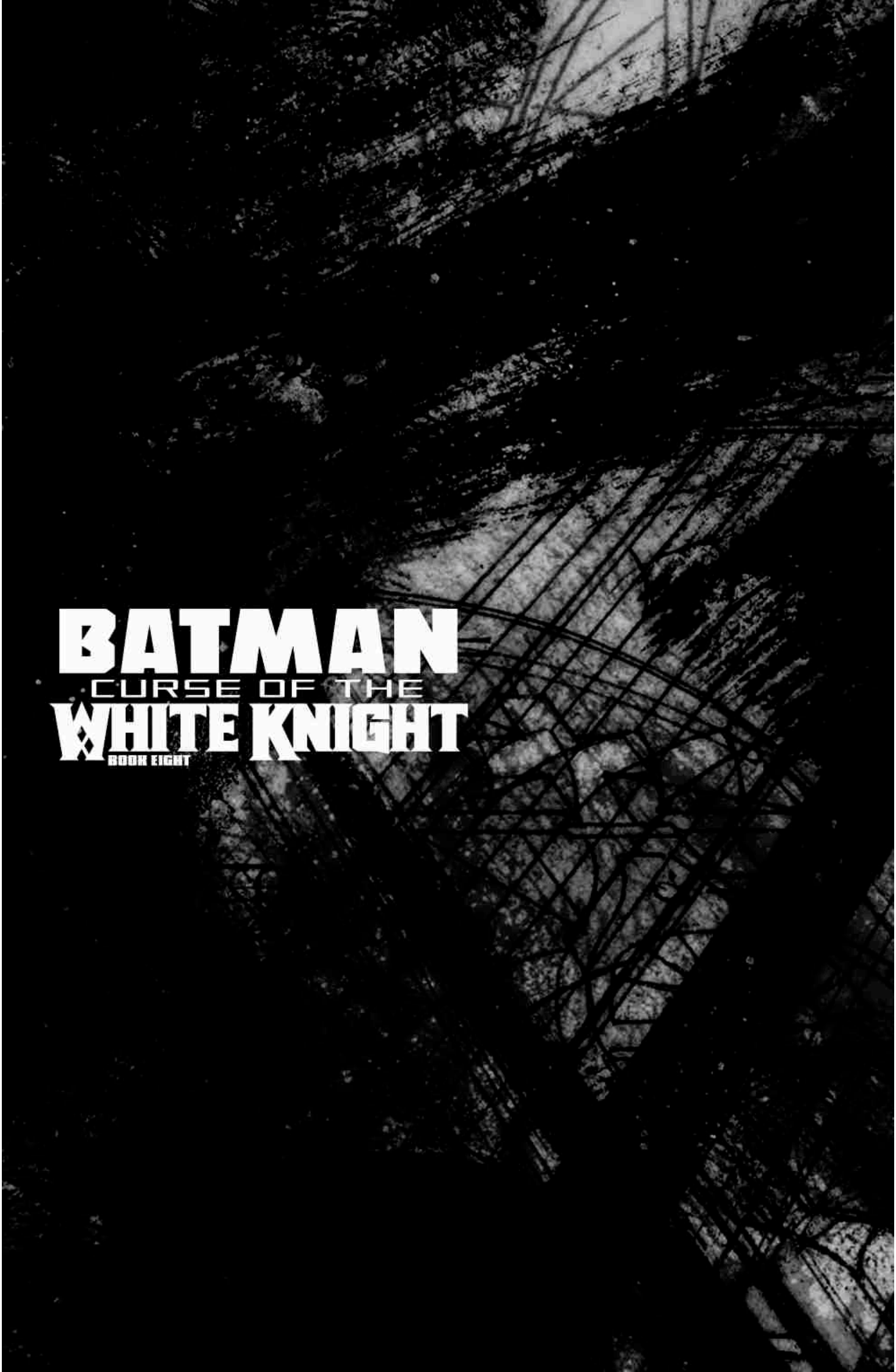
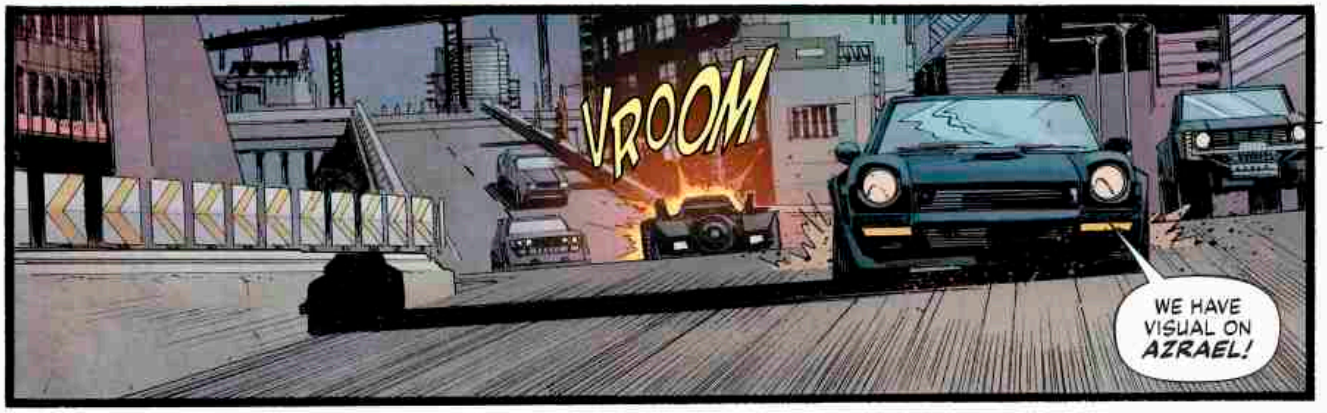

SEAN MURPHY WITH MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
DC BLACK LABEL
BATMAN
CURSE OF THE
WHITE KNIGHT
BOOK EIGHT
WAYNE


BATMAN
CURSE OF THE
WHITE KNIGHT
BOOK EIGHT

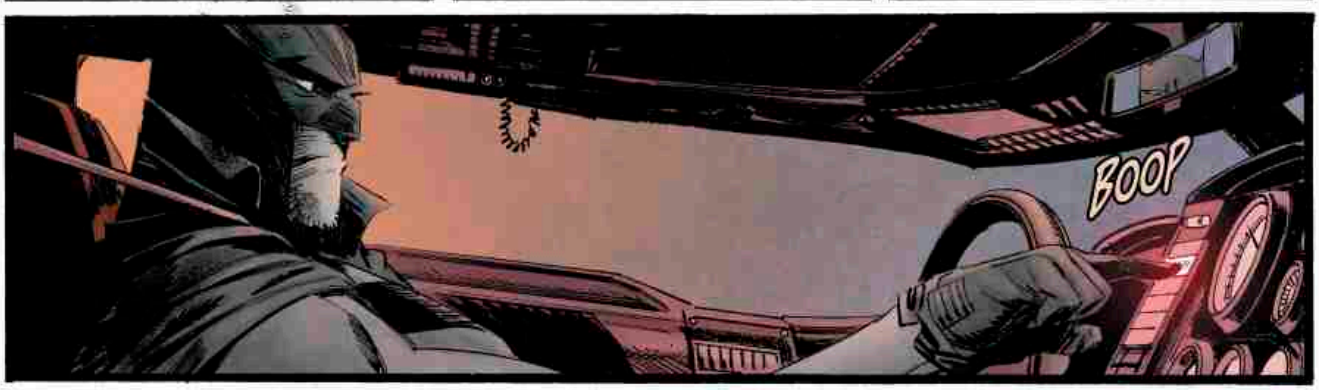

VROOM
WE HAVE VISUAL ON AZRAEL!

HE'S ON THE ROOFTOPS WEST OF THE PARK, RIGHT ALONG THE HIGHWAY!

I BET HE'S HEADED TO THE AIRPORT NEAR THE COAST GUARD STATION.
HE'S GOTTA COME DOWN FROM THE ROOFTOPS AT SOME POINT!

BRUCE, STAY BEHIND THE OTHERS IN CASE AZRAEL DOUBLES BACK.
...
BRUCE-- YOU THERE?

WHUD
HE JUST LANDED! I'VE GOT HIM--


BOOP

VVVVVVVVVVVVVV PKK
PKK PKK
WAIT, SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY CAR!
MINE TOO! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

DAMMIT!
NOT THIS SHIT AGAIN!
FWOOSH

WHAT HAPPENED?
HE TAMPERED WITH OUR CARS. ADDED SOME KIND OF SHUT-OFF DEVICE.

HE WAS ONLY USING US TO HELP FIND AZRAEL!
COMMISSIONER-- WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM--

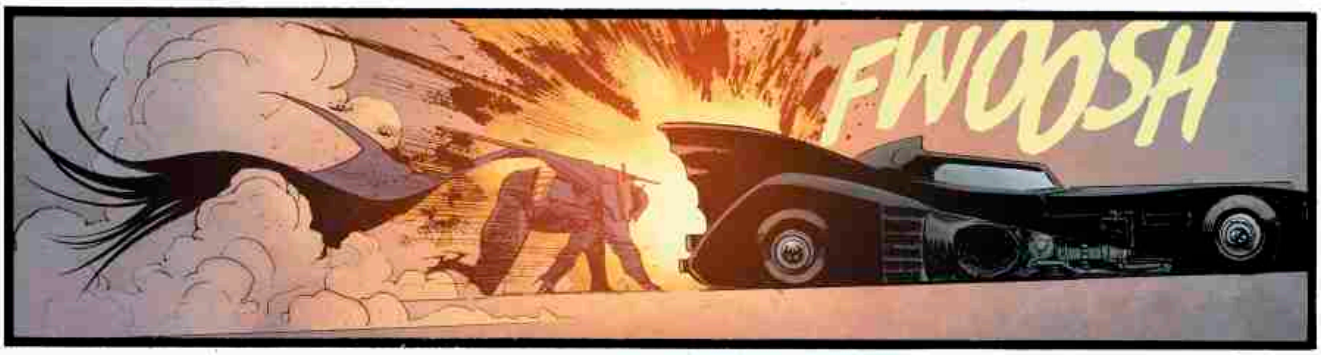
REMOTE DISRUPTER. I KNEW IT!
WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?
SNAP

BA-VROOM
BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT US STOPPING HIM...

"...FROM KILLING AZRAEL."
FWOOOSH
VVVVVVTT!!
BRATTA RATTA
RATTA
TING
TING
TING
BOAT
HOOK
TURBO
BEEP
TONG!
POKK
KLANG
SCREEECH

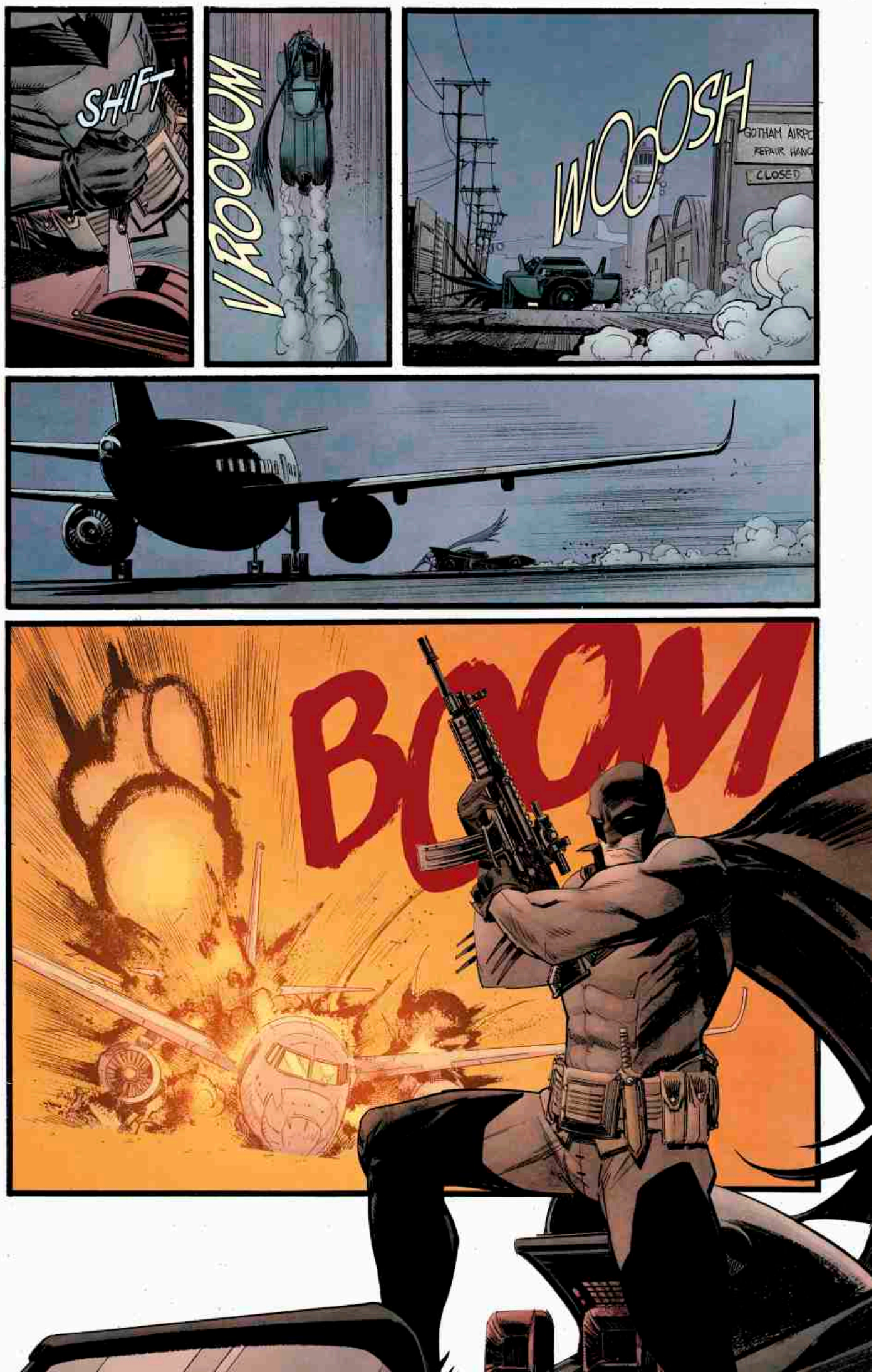
FWOOSH

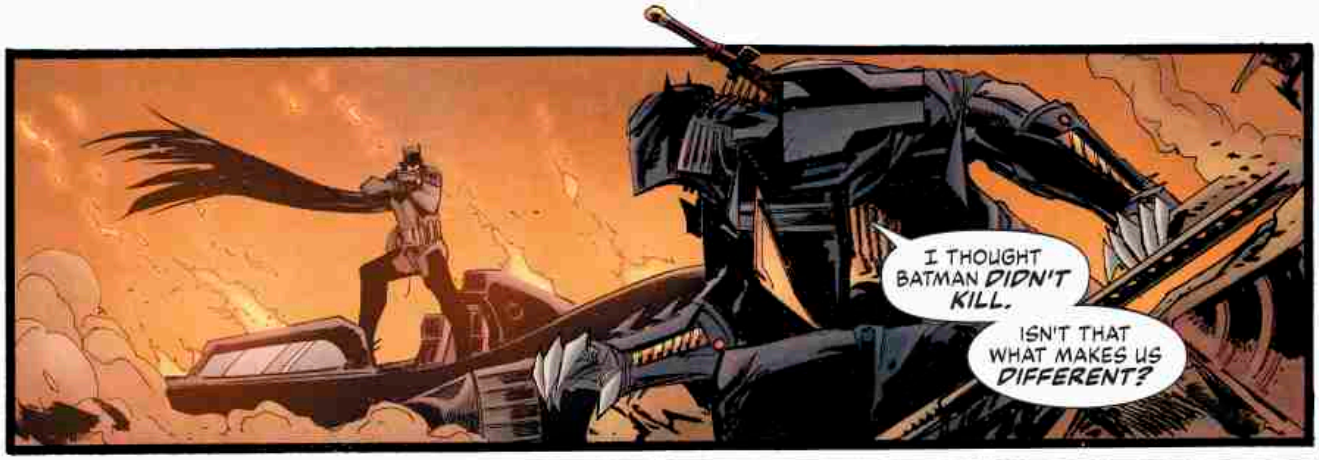
CRASH


FWOOSH

VROOOOM

NICE TRY, BRUCE.


SHIFT
VROOOUM
WOOOSH
GOTHAM AIRPO
REPAIR HANG
CLOSED
BOOM


I THOUGHT BATMAN DIDN'T KILL.
ISN'T THAT WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

THOKK

HUKK

WELL IF YOU'RE NO LONGER BATMAN, AND YOU'RE NO LONGER A WAYNE, THEN WHO ARE YOU?
I'M YOUR RECKONING.
NO. I KNOW WHAT YOU REALLY ARE, BRUCE...

YOU TRAVELED THE WORLD SEEKING SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF--SOMETHING THAT WOULD REPAIR YOU, BRING YOU PEACE.
BUT YOU LEARNED THAT THERE IS NO PEACE FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU--ONLY WAR. AND AS YOU LOOK BACK AT THE BLOOD IN YOUR WAKE, YOU REALIZE YOU'VE BECOME TOO ACCEPTING OF YOUR DEMONS--THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR SOUL.
SO YOU TRIED TO SAVE YOURSELF BY REACHING OUT TO THOSE AROUND YOU, BUT THEY COULDN'T SAVE YOU EITHER. BECAUSE YOUR WAR HAD BECOME THEIR WAR.

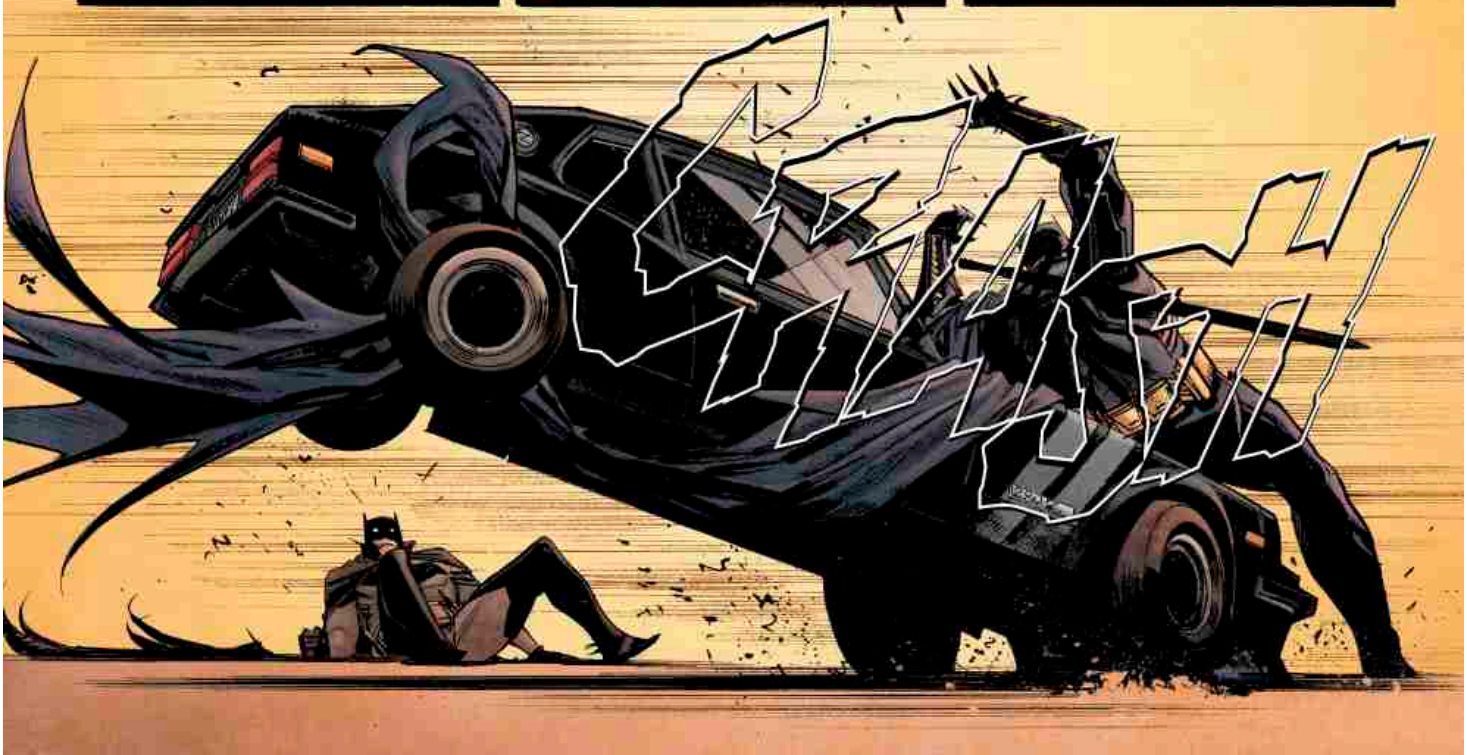
NOW HERE YOU ARE, ALL ALONE, TRYING TO BE A MARTYR...
...IN A BATTLE THAT KILLED YOU A LONG TIME AGO.

I KNOW YOU, BRUCE.
...GO TO HELL...
YOU'RE ME.

WE'RE BROTHERS, LIKE CAIN AND ABEL. NOT BOUND BY BLOOD, BUT BY DESTINY.

GOD PUT US ON DIFFERENT PATHS, BUT WE ENDED UP IN THE SAME PLACE, DIDN'T WE?

THE CITY WILL FIGHT YOU. EVEN AFTER I'M GONE.
THERE WON'T BE A CITY LEFT. NOT AFTER THE FLOOD...


CRASH!!!

BOOM

ALL UNITS REPORT TO THE ABANDONED AIRPORT DEPOT.
GRAYSON--YOU STILL HAVE EYES ON AZRAEL?

NEGATIVE.
BUT HE CAN'T BE FAR--I HIT HIM PRETTY HARD.
:HRRNNF:

BRUCE... IS THAT A GUN?
GODDAMN IT--WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THIS ISN'T YOU!

AZRAEL NEEDS TO DIE. FOR WHAT HE'S DONE, FOR WHAT HE STANDS FOR.
AND WHAT IF IT KILLS YOU?!
MAYBE THAT'S FOR THE BEST. MAYBE THAT'S WHAT GOTHAM REALLY NEEDS--A CLEAN SLATE.
JESUS, YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED ANYTHING, HAVE YOU?! AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, NOTHING'S CHANGED!

GORDON IS DEAD. BARBARA BARELY SURVIVED. AZRAEL IS RIGHT--I BROUGHT THIS WAR UPON YOU.
SO IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE? BRINGING US INTO THIS? BARBARA, JASON, GORDON--
YES.

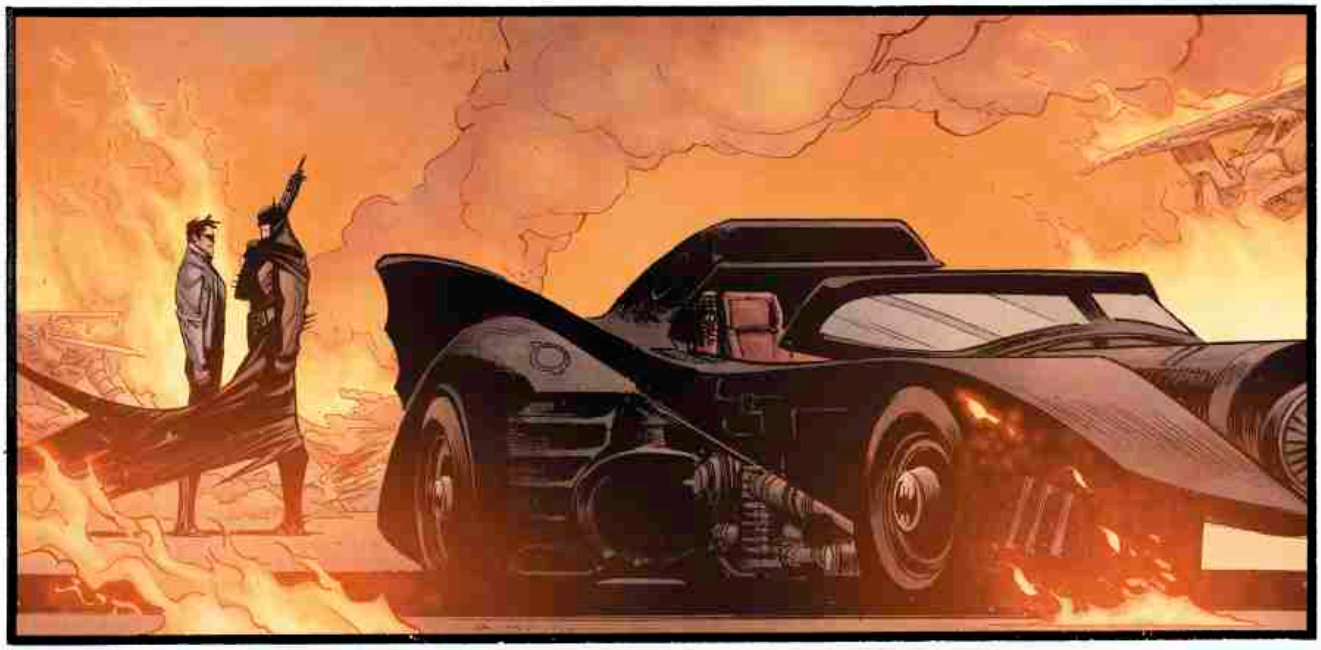
THEN WHY DID YOU DO IT, BRUCE?
DO WHAT?
WHY ADOPT ME IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I'VE RUINED YOUR LIFE, DICK.
YOU SAVED ME!
I TRIED TO SAVE YOU AND I FAILED--BECAUSE I'M NOT MUCH OF A FATHER.

MAYBE NOT...
...BUT YOU'RE MY FATHER.
AND I STILL BELIEVE IN YOU.

DON'T END IT THIS WAY--DON'T MAKE ME WATCH YOU--
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SMART ENOUGH TO SEE MY FLAWS, DICK. MAYBE THAT'S WHY THERE'S BEEN A WEDGE BETWEEN US--BECAUSE WE BOTH KNOW WHO THE BETTER MAN IS.
NOW STEP ASIDE AND LET ME END THIS.

FINE, BUT END IT YOUR WAY.
NOT AS AZRAEL...
...AS BATMAN.



GRAYSON, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

SEND UNITS TO THE DAM AT GOTHAM RESERVOIR.
THE RESERVOIR?
AZRAEL IS GOING TO TRY TO DESTROY IT.

NO TIME FOR EVACUATION--GET PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS AND INTO THE BUILDINGS.
HOLY BIBLICAL FLOOD, BATMAN.
COMMISSIONER, CALL THE NATIONAL GUARD--
VROOM

THAT WAS GCPD.
ABOUT TIME.
AZRAEL MIGHT BE ON THE BASE. NOTIFY YOUR MEN AND START SWEEPING THE AREA.
GET THE HELO INTO THE AIR--HEAD STRAIGHT TO THE RESERVOIR. I'LL STIR UP MORE SUPPORT.
ON IT.
COMMANDER--PUT GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL ON LOCKDOWN!
CLICK
U.S. COAST GUARD
:GASP:

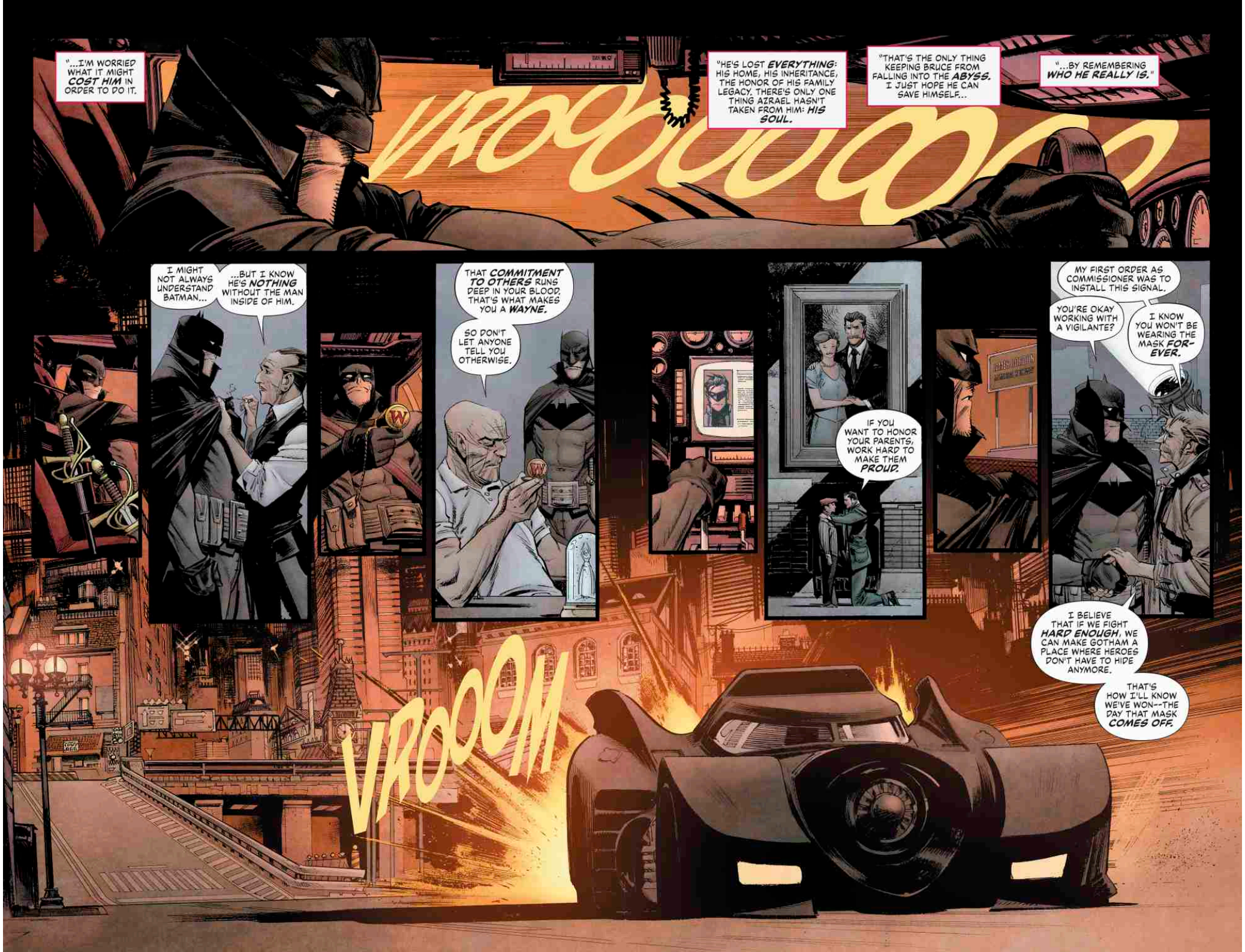
JESUS CHRIST.
BREAKING
THREAT TO GOTHAM RESERVOIR. CITYWIDE FLOOD?

HE'S GOING TO FLOOD GOTHAM?
OH MY GOD...

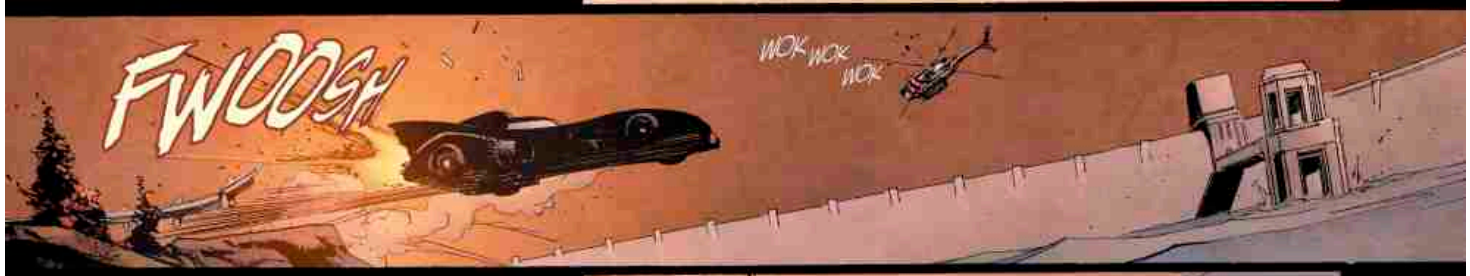
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

FWOOOSH

...
DON'T WORRY, BRUCE ALWAYS FINDS A WAY.
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT HIM BEATING AZRAEL...


"...I'M WORRIED WHAT IT MIGHT COST HIM IN ORDER TO DO IT.
VROOOOOOO
"HE'S LOST EVERYTHING: HIS HOME, HIS INHERITANCE, THE HONOR OF HIS FAMILY LEGACY. THERE'S ONLY ONE THING AZRAEL HASN'T TAKEN FROM HIM: HIS SOUL.
"THAT'S THE ONLY THING KEEPING BRUCE FROM FALLING INTO THE ABYSS. I JUST HOPE HE CAN SAVE HIMSELF...
"...BY REMEMBERING WHO HE REALLY IS."
I MIGHT NOT ALWAYS UNDERSTAND BATMAN...
...BUT I KNOW HE'S NOTHING WITHOUT THE MAN INSIDE OF HIM.
THAT COMMITMENT TO OTHERS RUNS DEEP IN YOUR BLOOD. THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU A WAYNE.
SO DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU OTHERWISE.
IF YOU WANT TO HONOR YOUR PARENTS, WORK HARD TO MAKE THEM PROUD.
MY FIRST ORDER AS COMMISSIONER WAS TO INSTALL THIS SIGNAL.
YOU'RE OKAY WORKING WITH A VIGILANTE?
I KNOW YOU WON'T BE WEARING THE MASK FOR-EVER.
I BELIEVE THAT IF WE FIGHT HARD ENOUGH, WE CAN MAKE GOTHAM A PLACE WHERE HEROES DON'T HAVE TO HIDE ANYMORE.
THAT'S HOW I'LL KNOW WE'VE WON--THE DAY THAT MASK COMES OFF.
VROOOM

WOK WOK WOK

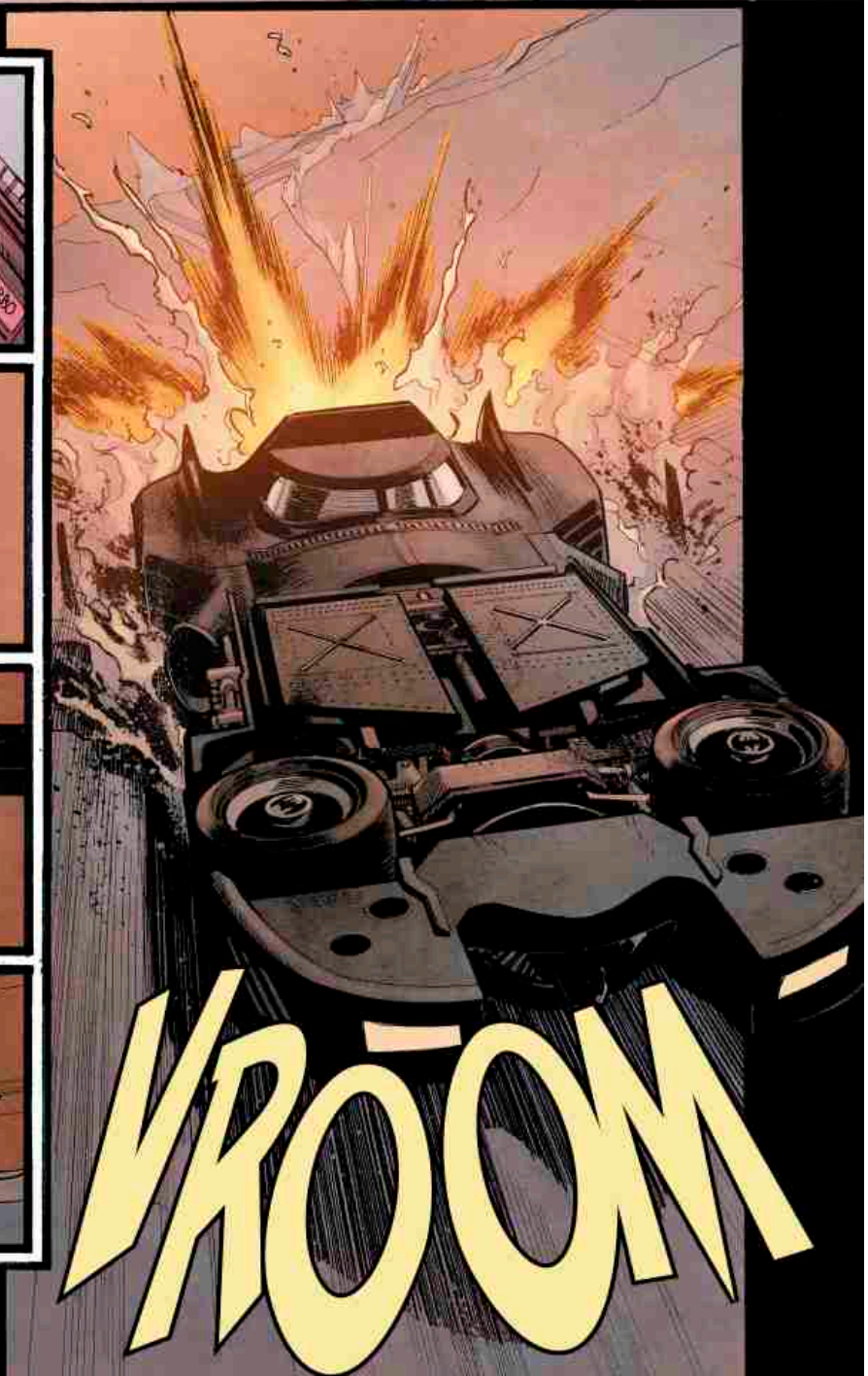

FWOOSH
WOK WOK WOK

CLICK
BOOST
HOOK
TURBO

VROOT

CHOKK

FWOOSH


VRŌOM

FOOSH
TWOOSH
BOOM
KRRK
CRASH

THIS SUIT HAS LASER-GUIDED BATARANGS, ADVANCED OCULAR TECH, AND SPECIALIZED R.A.Z.O.R. PLATING.
AND YOU BROUGHT RAPIERS?
I SAW WHAT'S CARVED INTO THE HILT OF YOUR SWORD.
IRADAT ALLAH.
IT'S ARABIC. FOR GOD'S WILL.
SO?
SO IF THAT SWORD IS GOD'S WILL, THEN IT'S ALL YOU SHOULD NEED.
...
WELL PLAYED, BRUCE.
MAY THE LORD SHINE BRIGHTLY ON EACH OF US.

CLAKK

HRRN

CLAKK

WOOSH

WHUD
I SEE YOU'VE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART.

TRYING TO DISARM ME, RATHER THAN KILL ME?
IT WON'T WORK.
IF YOU DON'T DIE BY MY HAND...
WOOSH

...IT'S BECAUSE I FORCED YOU TO KILL ME!
CLANG
SHIELDS.
WHUD

CLINK CLINK
CLINK CLINK
CLINK
CLINK

CLANG

ARRRRRRRRRGH!

HACK

...GRRRGLE...

...THAT WAS MY CAROTID ARTERY.
...YOU DID IT, BRUCE...
...YOU KILLED ME.

...I...KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU.

YOU'VE FINISHED WHAT BAKKAR STARTED...

...YOU ELIMINATED THE LAST WAYNE.

NO.
I WON'T LET YOU DIE.

...I KNEW I WOULDN'T SURVIVE, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D WIN...
...THE LORD WAS ON MY SIDE...
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
THAT'S WHY HE SPARED MY FAMILY...THAT'S WHY HE SENT US AN ANGEL...
"...THE LAST KNIGHT OF ST. DUMAS.
"HE FOUND EDMOND WAYNE'S DAUGHTER--BORN TO A LOWLY PROSTITUTE AFTER HIS DEATH. TOOK HER AWAY FROM GOTHAM AND HID HER WITHIN THE ORDER TO PROTECT HER FROM THE BAKKARS.
"CHANGED HER LAST NAME TO VALLEY...

...A REMINDER OF HER BIRTHRIGHT, OF GOTHAM VALLEY. HE KNEW GOD WOULD FIND A WAY TO RECTIFY THE SIN THAT CURSED THIS LAND, EVEN IF IT TOOK GENERATIONS.
BEING THE PROTECTOR OF GOTHAM IS BIGGER THAN BEING A WAYNE OR A BAKKAR.
THE PRIEST KNEW THAT, WHICH IS WHY HE GAVE THE JOURNAL TO GOTHAM'S TRUE PROTECTOR...

WOK
WOK
WOK
...BATMAN.

GCPD
NEWS 4
GOTHAM

:SNIFF:

DETECTIVE.
GOOD LUCK, COWL HEAD.

DUKE. YOU'D HAVE MADE A GREAT ROBIN.
HA.

COMMISSIONER.

NOT SURE WHY YOU'RE LETTING US DO THIS, BRUCE.
WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE?

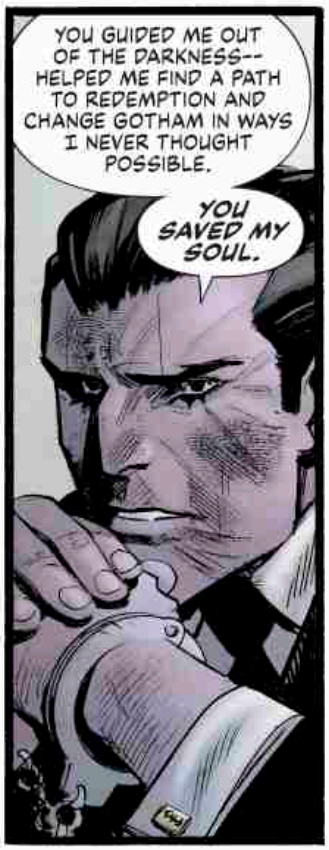
CB-GCPD

HARLEY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, BATS.
I JUST LOST JACK. I'M NOT LOSING YOU TOO.

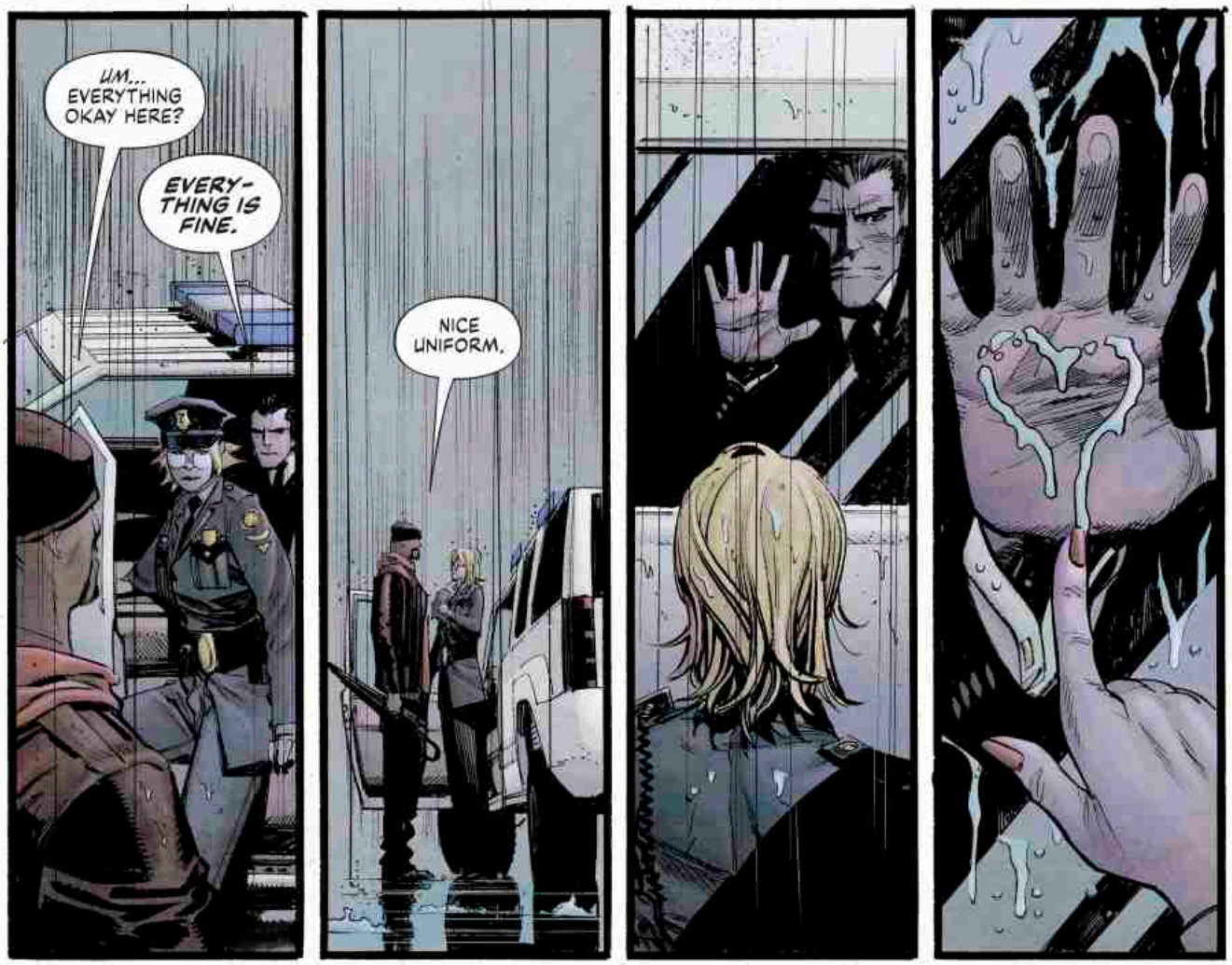
YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS. THINK OF YOUR KIDS, THINK OF YOUR FUTURE TOGETHER.
LOCK
NO. I CAN'T...
...I CAN'T BE ALONE.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE. YOU'RE JUST FEELING LOST.
...
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

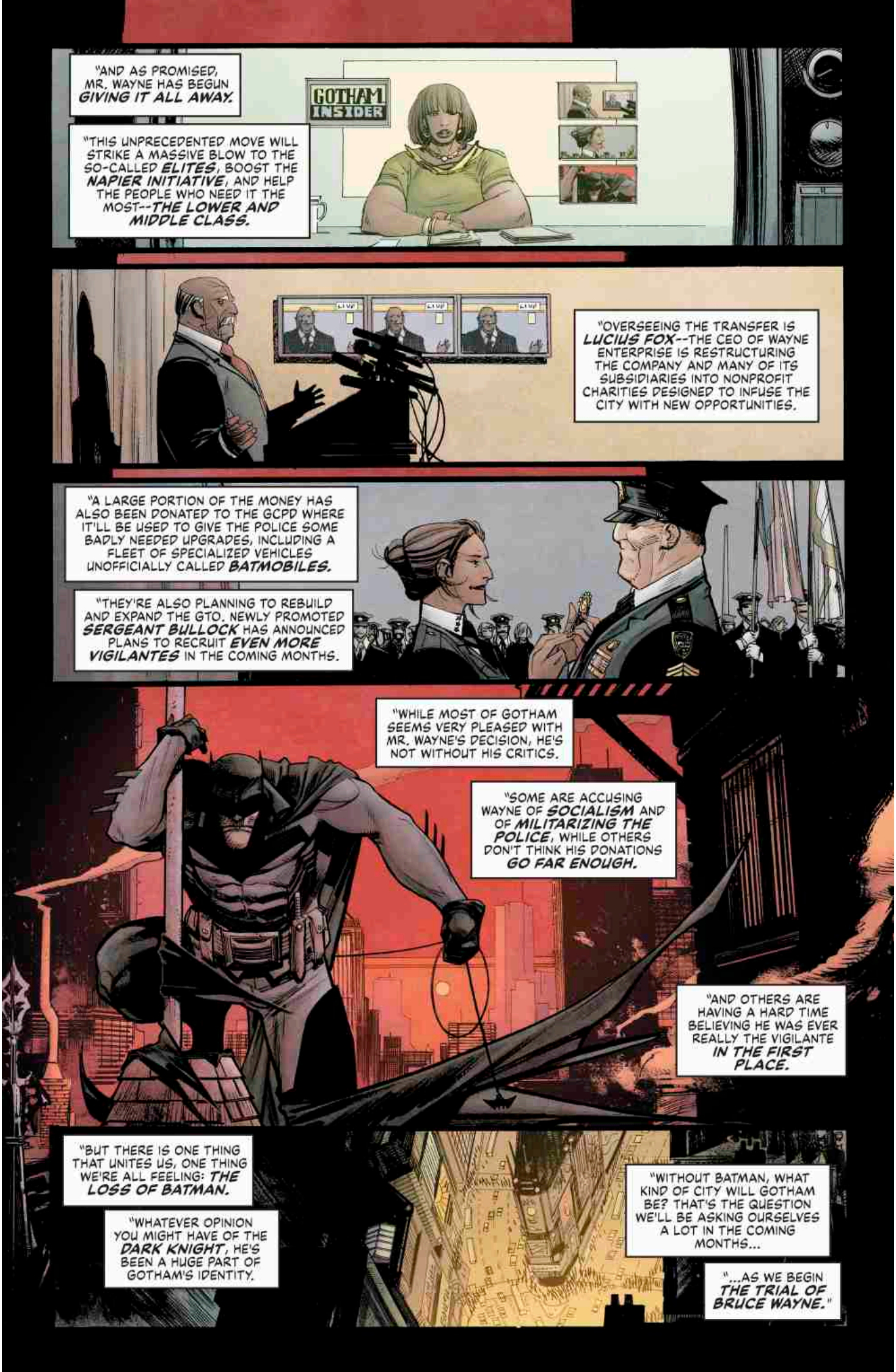
HARLEY, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID FOR ME.
WITHOUT YOUR HELP, THIS WHOLE THING MIGHT HAVE ENDED VERY DIFFERENTLY.


YOU GUIDED ME OUT OF THE DARKNESS-- HELPED ME FIND A PATH TO REDEMPTION AND CHANGE GOTHAM IN WAYS I NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.
YOU SAVED MY SOUL.

WELL, I GUESS I WAS RETURNING THE FAVOR.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE, I PROMISE.
IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.
UNLOCK


UM... EVERYTHING OKAY HERE?
EVERY-THING IS FINE.
NICE UNIFORM.

"WHILE THE TOTAL VALUE OF BRUCE WAYNE'S ASSETS HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED, MOST ARE ESTIMATING IT TO BE IN THE HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS."


"AND AS PROMISED, MR. WAYNE HAS BEGUN GIVING IT ALL AWAY.
"THIS UNPRECEDENTED MOVE WILL STRIKE A MASSIVE BLOW TO THE SO-CALLED ELITES, BOOST THE NAPIER INITIATIVE, AND HELP THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT THE MOST--THE LOWER AND MIDDLE CLASS.
GOTHAM INSIDER
"OVERSEEING THE TRANSFER IS LUCIUS FOX--THE CEO OF WAYNE ENTERPRISE IS RESTRUCTURING THE COMPANY AND MANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES INTO NONPROFIT CHARITIES DESIGNED TO INFUSE THE CITY WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES.
"A LARGE PORTION OF THE MONEY HAS ALSO BEEN DONATED TO THE GCPD WHERE IT'LL BE USED TO GIVE THE POLICE SOME BADLY NEEDED UPGRADES, INCLUDING A FLEET OF SPECIALIZED VEHICLES UNOFFICIALLY CALLED BATMOBILES.
"THEY'RE ALSO PLANNING TO REBUILD AND EXPAND THE GTO. NEWLY PROMOTED SERGEANT BULLOCK HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO RECRUIT EVEN MORE VIGILANTES IN THE COMING MONTHS.
"WHILE MOST OF GOTHAM SEEMS VERY PLEASED WITH MR. WAYNE'S DECISION, HE'S NOT WITHOUT HIS CRITICS.
"SOME ARE ACCUSING WAYNE OF SOCIALISM AND OF MILITARIZING THE POLICE, WHILE OTHERS DON'T THINK HIS DONATIONS GO FAR ENOUGH.
"AND OTHERS ARE HAVING A HARD TIME BELIEVING HE WAS EVER REALLY THE VIGILANTE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
"BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT UNITES US, ONE THING WE'RE ALL FEELING: THE LOSS OF BATMAN.
"WHATEVER OPINION YOU MIGHT HAVE OF THE DARK KNIGHT, HE'S BEEN A HUGE PART OF GOTHAM'S IDENTITY.
"WITHOUT BATMAN, WHAT KIND OF CITY WILL GOTHAM BE? THAT'S THE QUESTION WE'LL BE ASKING OURSELVES A LOT IN THE COMING MONTHS...
"...AS WE BEGIN THE TRIAL OF BRUCE WAYNE."

WHY AM I HERE, BRUCE?

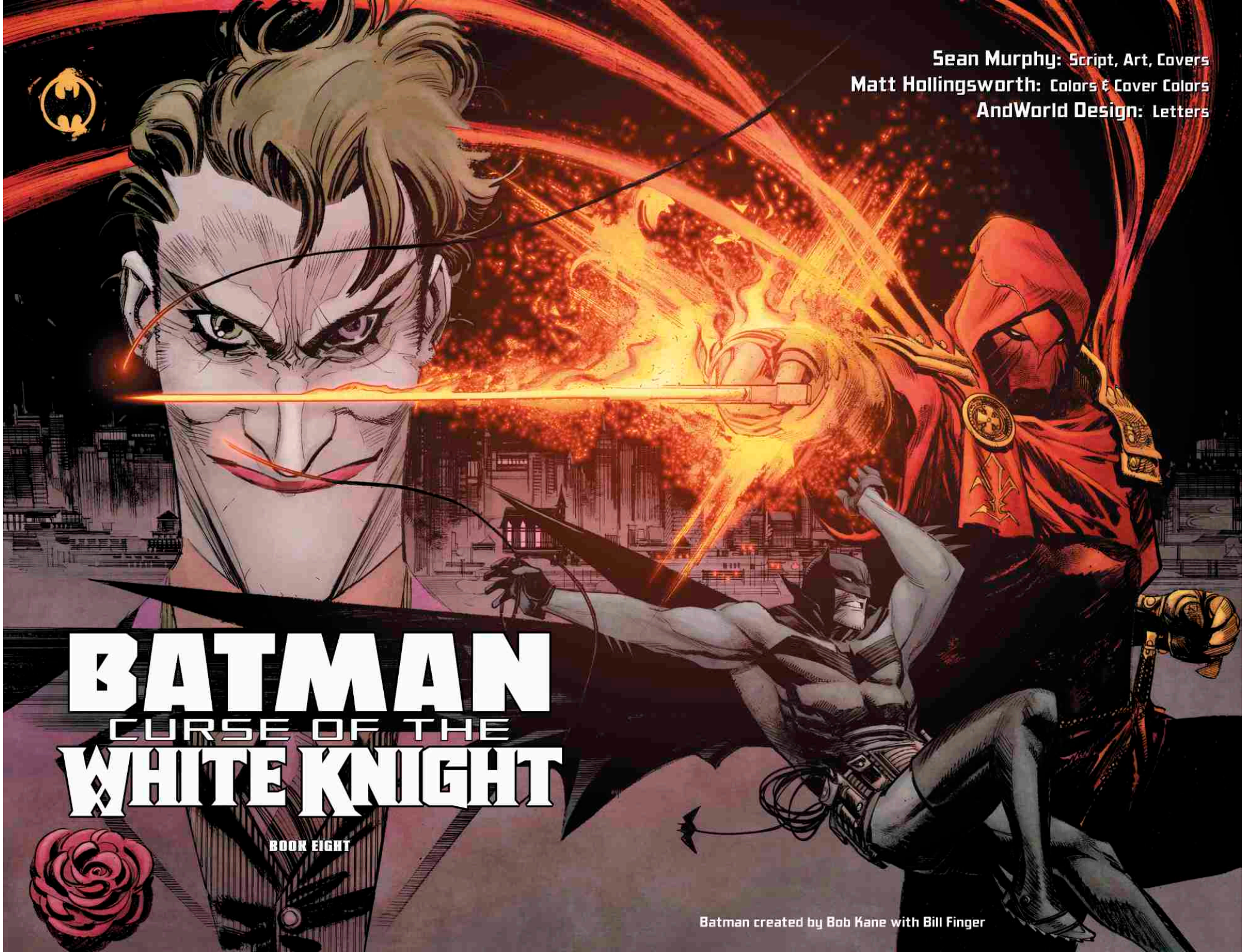
MONTOYA NEEDED SOMEONE TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME, SOMEONE WHO KNOWS MY TRICKS AND CAN STOP ME FROM ESCAPING. SO I HAD HER TRACK YOU DOWN--
NO CELL CAN HOLD YOU, BRUCE. WE BOTH KNOW THAT.

YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU INTEND ON STAYING HERE?
THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER REASON.

YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE IS...

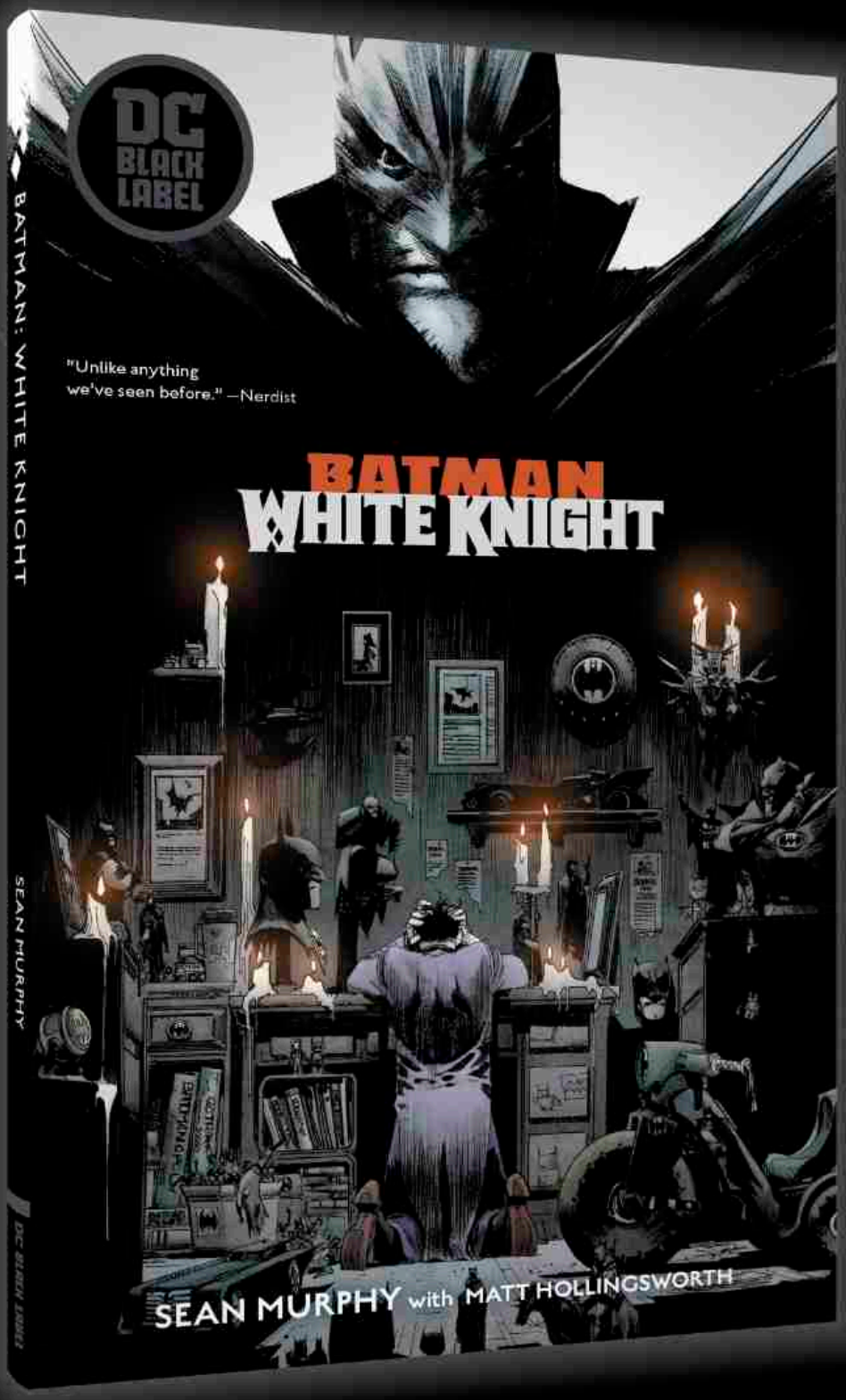
I WANT TO TALK.
TODD

THE END


Sean Murphy: Script, Art, Covers
Matt Hollingsworth: Colors & Cover Colors
AndWorld Design: Letters
BATMAN
CURSE OF THE
WHITE KNIGHT
BOOK EIGHT
Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger

Written & illustrated by

SEAN MURPHY



"Cinematic and graphic."
—A.V. Club

"Murphy was truly born to draw Batman."
—IGN

"A breakout hit."
—SyFy Wire

"Holy cow do you get your money's worth."
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BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT 8. MAY, 2020. PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY DC COMICS, 2900 W. ALAMEDA AVENUE, BURBANK, CA 91505. GST Nº IS R125921072.

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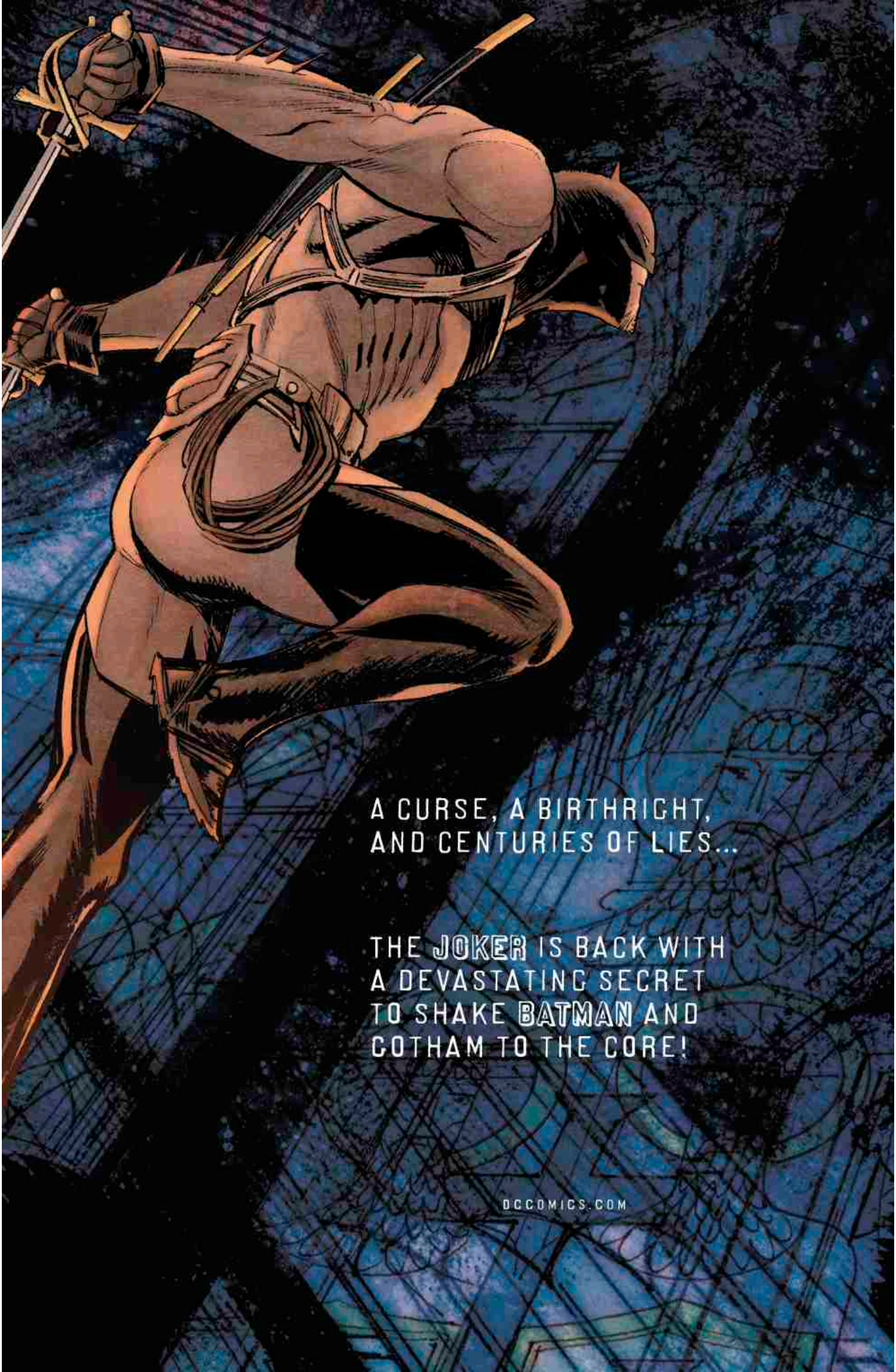
A CURSE, A BIRTHRIGHT,
AND CENTURIES OF LIES...
THE JOKER IS BACK WITH
A DEVASTATING SECRET
TO SHAKE BATMAN AND
GOTHAM TO THE CORE!
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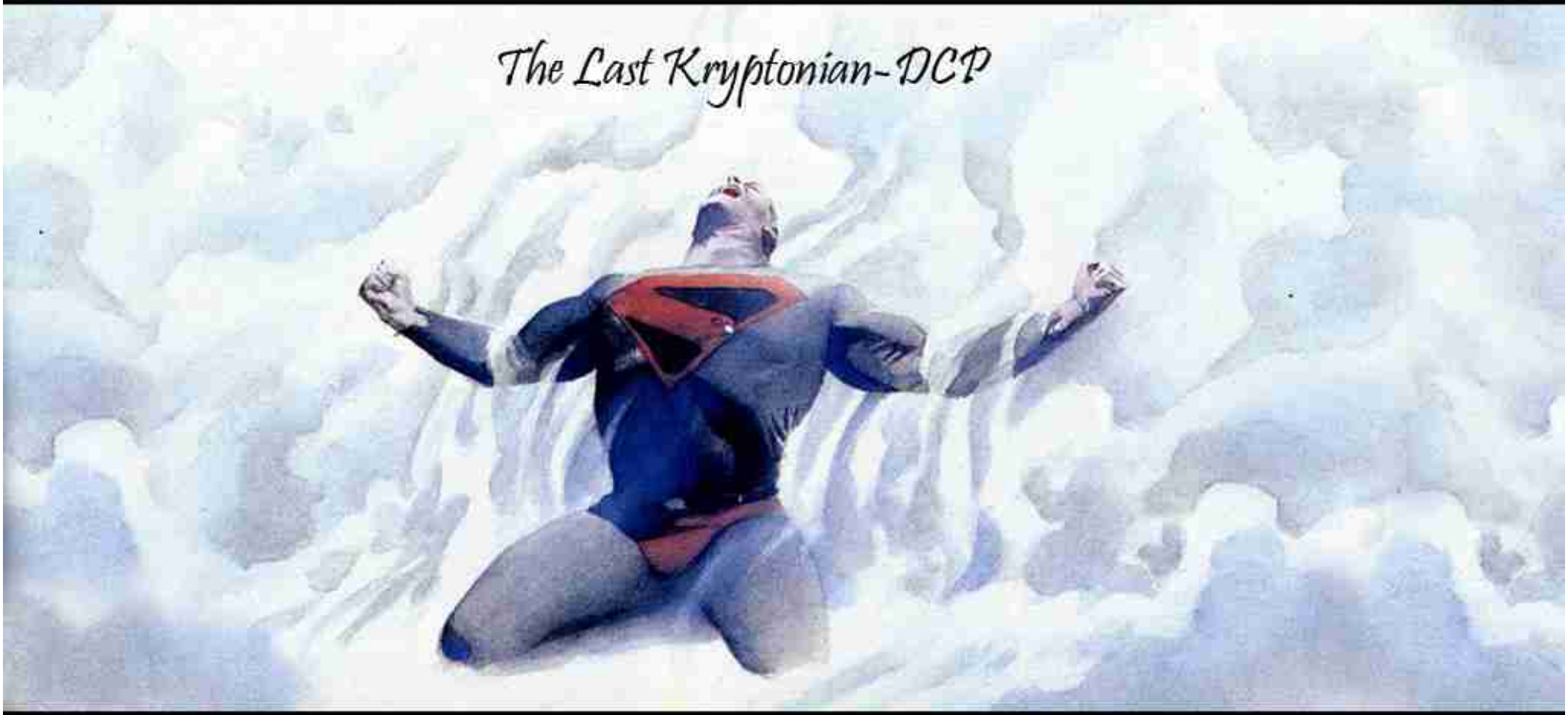
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